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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Maneuvers and Troop Movements in Caucasus

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1. Beginning early in Jan 54, the VIII Corps started two-sided maneuvers, on a local scale, in the region of Romaneskoï, northeast of Sochi and south of Mt. Shugur. The 19th Division took the defensive. The offensive forces were the 12th, 23rd, 67th Infantry Regiments, the 15th Independent Brigade, and the 42nd Parachute Brigade (Kubanaki). They had air and tank support, though the air and tank units participating have not been identified. The main effort was to parachute troops in and surround the defending division. The maneuvers were still in progress on 17 Jan 54, when the last report was sent from the scene.
2. Rather vague information indicates that regiments from Asia and Siberia are being moved to the Crimea. Further information is expected but, as of 17 Jan 54, there were no unit identifications.
3. Preparations are being made for maneuvers north of Lake Sevanga. There is no further information as yet.
4. On 9 Jan 54, special open freight cars were transporting naval guns from Voronezh and Rostov toward the Black Sea. They are known to have been of "large" caliber, but no exact figures have been obtained. They are reported to have "long range". Thirty-two were counted. They are to be used to defend the Caucasus along the Black Sea coast.

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